

Message Text

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SUBJ: TRAINING FOR ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE

SUMMARY: SUDDEN INCREASES IN TRAINING COSTS IN US HAVE CAUSED THE ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE. US MUST, THEREFORE, TRY TO PROVIDE TRAINING AT LOWEST LEGITIMATE COST, OR EVEN AT NO COST WHEN US NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A PLAN TO CANCEL ABOUT ONE-HALF OF ITS SCHEDULED IMPROVED HAWK MISSILE MAINTENANCE TRAINING FOR NEXT YEAR IN FAVOR OF AN ABBREVIATED TEN-WEEK, IN-COUNTRY COURSE TO BE PROVIDED BY RAYTHEON CORP. NEXT SPRING. THIS INVOLVES 26 DANISH ENLISTED PERSONNEL WHO WERE SCHEDULED FOR COURSES UP TO NINE MONTHS IN LENGTH. MDA ADVISES STRONGLY AGAINST THIS DECISION. WHILE WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE QUALITY OF THE RAYTHEON PROGRAM, ITS ABBREVIATED DURATION CANNOT HOPE TO ACHIEVE THE SAME PROFICIENCY AS LONGER US ARMY COURSES. DESPITE FACT THAT OUR ARGUMENTS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY RDAF, THE BUDGETARY IMPACT SEEMS TO BE OVERRIDING; THE RAYTHEON CONTRACT WOULD SAVE

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THE RDAF \$500,000. THIS WOULD RESULT IN EXTENSION

OF TIME REQUIRED FOR MODIFIED DANISH HAWK UNITS TO ACHIEVE NATO COMBAT CAPABILITY. US ARMY HAS PROMISED REVISED COST FIGURES, BUT WE FEAR THAT THEY WILL BE TOO LATE TO FIT INTO OVERALL DANISH TRAINING BUDGET.

2. THE TENTATIVE COST OF F-16 CONVERSION AND INSTRUCTOR PILOT UPGRADE TRAINING FOR FIVE HIGHLY-QUALIFIED DANISH PILOTS, AS PRESENTED YESTERDAY TO THE RDAF, COMES TO APPROXIMATELY \$1.7 MILLION. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD ANY REPERCUSSIONS FROM DANES, WE EXPECT SOME FROM ALL FOUR EPG COUNTRIES. THIS PRICE, IF ACCURATE, SHOULD BE COMPLETELY DEFENDABLE BEFORE BEING FORMALLY PRESENTED IN A LETTER OF OFFER.

3. IN SEPERATE CONVERSATIONS THIS PAST WEEK, THE COMMANDER, RDAF, AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF BOTH VOICED CONCERN OVER THE COST OF US TRAINING. NOT ONLY IS PRESENT DANISH DEFENSE BUDGET RESTRICTIVE BUT THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT PRESENTLY UNDER DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT COVER SUCH INFLATED TRAINING COSTS.

4. WE HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT RDAF PLANS TO REDUCE ITS QUOTA FOR THE USAF SQUADRON OFFICERS SCHOOL (SOS) FROM FOUR TO TWO THIS YEAR, AND TO CANCEL COMPLETELY ITS QUOTA TO THE AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE (ACSC). THIS IS UNFORTUNATE DECISION FROM STANDPOINT OF LONG-TERM DANISH-AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONS. TRADITIONALLY, GRADUATES OF ACSC HAVE JOINED THE FACULTY OF THE DANISH DEFENSE STAFF COLLEGE WHERE THEIR PRO-US ORIENTATION IS PUT TO GOOD USE. THIS INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY COULD NOW BE LOST.

5. WE URGE THAT THE POLICY OF CHARGING OUR DANISH ALLIES FOR PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION BE EVALUATED AGAIN IN TERMS OF ITS ULTUMATE IMPACT ON DANISH-US RELATIONS. IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE US STANDS TO GAIN AS MUCH FROM THESE EXCHANGES AS DENMARK. THE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IS OF FINITE DURATION; THE ATTITUDES GAINED ARE OF LONG-LASTING VALUE. WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO ABSORB THESE COSTS IN OUR OWN INTEREST.
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